

do those lights right!

Your outdoor twinkle is about to glow up.

ON THE GARAGE DOOR Define the perimeter with globe lights—the bulbs are largish and generate enough light for a big space, says Erin Swift, founder of Holiday Workroom in New York City. Hang with removable light clips. As with all lights, test 'em before you start.

For major impact and that *ooh... aah* wintry gleam, there's nothing like icicle lights hung from eaves.

ON DORMERS Highlight each dormer with a pre-lit battery-operated wreath hung in the window. Look for timer-operated ones so you don't have to turn them on and off each night. Experts recommend having 2 to 4 inches of space between each side of the wreath and the window frame.

ON A BARE-BRANCH TREE Choose mini LEDs with at least 300 lights per strand, says Lance Allen, who oversees holiday decorations for The Home Depot. It'll be a bright moment for your utility bill, too—LEDs can use up to about 75% less energy than incandescent lights.

ON PORCH COLUMNS Cluster lights pack in twinkle with every twist. To keep strands in place, says Swift, rest each loop of lights on light clips, sticking them on the back of the column as you go.

ON OUTDOORSY STUFF Small LED lights strung on gear like a bike, a wagon, or garden decor—such as your friendly lawn gnome—look fun and unexpected, says HGTV designer Taniya Nayak. Attach with zip ties or floral wire.

ON SHRUBS OR BUSHES All hail net lighting: "It's a quick way to cover a lot of greenery and ensure uniformly spaced light," says Allen. "Gently pull some branches through the holes in the net for the most natural look."

ON AN EVERGREEN TREE

Teardrop-shaped C7 or C9 bulbs stand out against the thick greenery. Do at least 50 lights per vertical foot. "For trees taller than 5 feet, get a helper to hand them to you," says Swift. Weave in and out of branches so your spruce or pine looks lit from within.

ON WINDOWS

You want a smooth ribbon of light that melds with the glow coming from inside. For that, reach for LED rope lights that you can attach with light clips or staples.

ON RAILINGS

Strands of icicle lights here, too, offer great coverage across and down. No worries about getting them totally straight—ripples mimic the real deal.

DON'T FORGET THE YARD!

Looking out into pitch darkness: not so festive. Light up a tire swing, the kids' swing set, or the doghouse, says Nayak. Battery-operated twinkle lights are a particularly happy sight.

Lighting up the same tree every year? Consider having an in-ground power outlet installed—so you'll have fewer (if any) extension cords to contend with.